



Friday
April 29, 2011

Weekly Views

At the recent Correctional Education Association Forum in Washington D.C., IDOC's Dr. John Nally gave a presentation on the \$726,000 Second Chance Act grant that was awarded to the PEN Products Braille program located at the Miami Correctional Facility. The attendees found the Second Chance grantees session to be the most valuable at the CEA Forum. The session tied together all aspects of the conference into one neat package of implementation of service.

A retirement luncheon was conducted for Pendleton Correctional Facility Counselor Mike Kidder who was recognized for 25 years of service to the Indiana Department of Correction. Congratulations Mike and have a great retirement!

The Venture and Boy Scout Troop #1888 at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility was awarded the 2010 Centennial Quality Unit Award which recognizes Scout Troops in achieving excellence in providing a quality program.

Approximately 20 people attended a one-day Facilitator Skills Training session in Plainfield, IN, provided by the Office of Family Assistance in Washington, D.C. The training was conducted by Nigel Vann, Senior Director, Training & Technical Assistance for the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse, and was attended by staff from several IDOC facilities, as well as staff and volunteers from several county jails.

A picture of the Madison Correctional Facility Hearts of Hope AA group appears in the May 2011 issue of *Grapevine*. The Hearts of Hope Group, an all female group, is open to the offenders and members of the community. *Grapevine* is the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is written, edited, illustrated and read by AA members and those interested in recovery.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) has a new Captain! Amanda Pirtle joined WVCF as an Officer in 1999, promoted to Sergeant in 2007 and Correctional Lieutenant in 2008. Captain Pirtle has completed the Leadership Academy, helps train new correctional hires and is an experienced and valued member of the facility CISM team!

Madison Correctional Facility held a grand opening for the facility's Family Preservation Center. An Easter themed party with face-painting, crafts and hotdogs was enjoyed by 110 children and grandchildren of the offender population.

Lt. Ryan Harrison from the Indiana State Prison spoke to a group of students at Purdue University Calumet. Lt. Harrison discussed the tactical aspects of the working in the Department of Correction.

DePauw University Sociology students and their Professor, Rebecca Bordt, toured the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility as an enhancement to their educational experience. The students received a first hand look at maximum security open population, segregation and the PLUS unit, where they talked to participants about community service, as the offenders prepare to successfully re-enter society.

New Castle Correctional Facility hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for 90 volunteers. Ronald Craig was named Volunteer of the Year and Westminster Community Center was named Volunteer Group of the Year.

Miami Correctional Facility held a PREP weekend with four couples. During the weekend, Casework Manager Katherine Snow went above and beyond the call of duty when one of the participants went into a diabetic seizure at the hotel. Ms. Snow was able to get access into the participant's hotel room, where she found the woman ill and called an ambulance. Without Mrs. Snow's insistence, the woman may not have been found until she was very ill.

Approximately 75 employees attended the Staff Assembly at the Correctional Industrial Facility. Superintendent Carneygee recognized and congratulated the following quarterly award recipients: Officer of the Quarter-Officer A. J. Mills, Supervisor of the Quarter-Sgt Jim Smith, Employee of the Quarter-Counselor Rob Stafford, Contractual Employee of the Quarter-Barbara Barnett, and Extra Mile Award-Officer Deric Springer.

Two Staff Assembly sessions were conducted at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. Administrative staff provided employees with an update of recent events at the facility and several staff members were recognized in connection with retirement, promotions, and years of service. Correctional Officer Johnathan C. Jackson was recognized as the facility's Employee of the Quarter and Lieutenant Robert Marvell was recognized as Supervisor of the Quarter.

Pendleton Juvenile held their Staff Assembly Award Ceremony. Serving as the guest speaker was Kate Frazier from Child Protective Services. Ms. Frazier, who has worked at PNJCF for many years, is a highly energized person that motivates people with her enthusiasm. Facility students sang under the direction of staff member Sondra Woods. Nakuma Stone received Correctional Officer of the Quarter; Vicky Schmidt, Culinary Arts Teacher, was named Employee of the Quarter; and Supervisor of the Quarter was Charles DeWeese.

Six students at Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility earned their official GED after a lot of hard work and preparation.